

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Historical Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs

Purpose and History

The [State Historical Society of Iowa](#) (SHSI) was formed under the auspices of the University of Iowa in 1857. That same year, the General Assembly appropriated \$250 to the SHSI for collecting, embodying, arranging, and preserving a library and collection of other materials illustrative of the history of Iowa ([1856 Iowa Acts, chapter 203–Historical Society Act](#)). The SHSI was reorganized by the General Assembly in 1872 ([1872 Iowa Acts, chapter 109, HF 418–State Historical Society Act](#)), and was transferred and became a division within the [Department of Cultural Affairs](#) (DCA) in 1986 ([1986 Iowa Acts, chapter 1245, SF 2175–State Government Reorganization Act](#)).

The State Historical Society of Iowa has a dual mission of preservation and education. As a trustee of Iowa's historical legacy, the SHSI identifies, records, collects, preserves, manages, and provides access to Iowa's historical resources. As an advocate of understanding Iowa's past, the SHSI educates Iowans of all ages, conducts and stimulates research, disseminates information, and encourages and supports historical preservation and education efforts of others throughout the state.

The Historical Division is required to do the following: oversee the State Historical Museum, State Archives and Records, State Historic Preservation Office, State Historical Libraries, Iowa History Publications, Historic Resource Grants, Battle Flag Preservation Project, State Historic Sites, Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, Archiving Former Governor's Papers, and Records Center Rent.

Funding — State General Fund

The SHSI receives a State General Fund appropriation. This appropriation represents approximately 70.0% of the total resources available to the Division in the past five fiscal years.

The SHSI also receives separate General Fund appropriations for completing some of the duties listed above, including the Battle Flag Preservation Project, Archiving the Former Governor's Papers, the Records Center Rent, and maintenance of the State Historic Sites.

Funding — Other Sources of Revenue

The SHSI also receives federal funding from the Department of the Interior for the Historic Preservation Fund. This grant requires a 40.0% match. The SHSI also receives a grant from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission for supporting the State Historical Records Commission. This grant requires a one-to-one match, with in-kind contributions acceptable as match.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [303, subchapter II](#)
[223](#) Iowa Administrative Code

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More Information

State Historical Society of Iowa: <http://www.iowahistory.org/>

Iowa General Assembly: <http://www.legis.iowa.gov>

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